

Exchange With Reporters on Arrival at the White House

May 2, 1997

Budget Agreement

Q. Mr. President, have you got all the Democrats on board now?

The President. A lot of them. I feel good about it.

Q. Do you need to do a selling job to the American people? Do you think you need to sell this at all?

The President. Oh, sure. We need to talk about it. We will. It's a good agreement, a good thing for America.

Q. [Inaudible]

The President. We're having them over here for a while.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:05 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Statement on the Department of Justice Appeal of the District Court Tobacco Regulation Decision

May 2, 1997

Today the Department of Justice filed a notice in the Greensboro U.S. District Court appealing the part of Judge Osteen's order that invalidated the Food and Drug Administration's tobacco advertising restrictions. The Department is asking for an expedited appeal, because every day of delay matters to our children's health. Each day, 3,000 children and young people become regular smokers, and 1,000 of them will have their lives cut short as a result of their smoking. And this problem of youth tobacco use is getting worse. The percentage of 8th and 10th graders who smoke has risen for 4 consecutive years. The FDA's commonsense access and advertising restrictions would reverse this trend. We will continue to work to protect our children from tobacco, and we will not stop until we succeed.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

May 2, 1997

To the Congress of the United States:

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1997 (Public Law 104-201), title XIV, section 1443 (Defense Against Weapons of Mass Destruction), requires the President to transmit a report to the Congress that describes the United States comprehensive readiness program for countering proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In accordance with this provision, I enclose the attached report.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
May 2, 1997.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address and an Exchange With Reporters

May 3, 1997

The President. Good morning. Yesterday we took a dramatic step to prepare America for the 21st century, and we got the best evidence yet that the new economic policy we adopted in 1993 is working for our people. Yesterday morning, we learned the unemployment rate has dropped to 4.9 percent, the lowest in 24 years. And yesterday afternoon, I reached an historic agreement with the leaders of Congress to balance the budget by 2002, with a plan that ensures we will balance the budget, invest in our future, protect our values and our obligations to our children, our parents, and those in need.

Four years ago, when I took office, the economy was stagnating, job growth was sluggish, the budget deficit threatened to drown our economy. I believed it was time to change course with a new economic strategy: Invest and grow, cut the budget deficit, sell more products overseas through tough trade agreements, and invest in the skills of our people. In 1993, we put our economic plan in place. It wasn't easy; it required hard